APPENDIX C-3

NEW HAMPDHIRE RECREATION & CONSERVATION LEADERS' SURVEY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This project is designed to provide information regarding the recreation/conservation planning needs and management priorities for communities throughout the state of New Hampshire. The hope is that the results from this survey can be used to provide benchmarks for the purposes of comparison between similar communities. The effectiveness of this project is dependent on wide participation, and we appreciate your willingness to answer the questions that follow.

What is the title of your department or administrative unit (e.g. Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation

> Please provide the name of the community you serve:_____

Part I: Background Information

Department)

•											
➤ What is the approximation ➤ What is the approximation →	nate popi	ılation o	of the con	nmunity y	you serv	e?					
Year-round resid	dents:			Se	easonal r	esidents:					
Please estimate your total annual operating budget for conservation efforts in your community. \$											
Part II: Funding & Su	<u>pport</u>										
Using the scale belo operating budget:											
	0%	1-	11-	21-	31-	41-	51-	61-	71-	81-	91-
Funding Source	or NA	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Taxes/Appropriated funds											
User fees/charges											
Public (state or federal grants)											
Private foundation grants											
Impact fees											
Private donations (i.e. personal gifts)											
Corporate sponsorships											

Additional funding sources not listed above AND their estimated % contribution to your organization's budget:

>	Please provide the number of staff that y following categories:	our organization util	izes for the purp	oses of conserva	tion efforts in the
	Full-time, paid				
	Part-time/seasonal, paid				
	Volunteer				
	Contracted staff				
>	Overall, how has the public funding support the past 5 years (check one): Remarkable improvement	port for public conser	vation efforts in	your community	y changed over
	☐ Improvement☐ Stayed about the same				
	Decline				
	☐ Remarkable decline				
<u>Pa</u>	Which statement best reflects the philoso conservation/natural resources protection Our primary purpose is the protection of the conservation land. Our primary purpose is to promore resources.	a and/or the promotic oction and/or conserv dopment and/or prom ote a balance between	on of outdoor rec ation of natural a notion of public of a conservation an	reation activities resources. outdoor recreatio	on use on
>	Please indicate whether your organizati outdoor recreation resources in your comadequate to meet the demands of your us	munity. For each, p			
Re	creation Resource	Yes – we control and/or maintain	No – we do not control or maintain	Adequate to meet demand	Inadequate to meet demand
Bil	ce lanes/paths				
His	storical or cultural sites				
Μι	ılti purpose (non-motorized) trails				
Mo	otorized recreational trails				
Na	ture/hiking trails				
De	veloped parks				
Gre	eenway corridors				

Downhill snow skiing/snowboarding areas

Cross-country ski or snowshoe areas				
Nature center/s				
Community garden/s				
Town or city forests				
Boat launches				
	Yes –	No – we do	Adequate to	Inadequate
	we control	not control	meet	to meet
Recreation Resource	and/or maintain	or maintain	demand	demand
Public beach/es				
Natural areas				
Public outdoor spaces (i.e. town common)				

> Are there any other recreational facilities or resources in your community that you control and/or maintain? Please note/list here:

Part IV: Planning Priorities

Please indicate whether you have *needs* (broad planning priorities) <u>or</u> specific *plans* (new facilities coming on-line) for the following recreation facilities in the next 5 years.

Recreation Facility/Resource	Broad Need in next 5 years	Specific Plans in next 5 years	Neither	Not Sure
Bike lanes/paths	Julia	Julia		
Historical or cultural sites				
Multi purpose (non-motorized) trails				
Motorized recreational trails				
Nature/hiking trails				
Developed parks				
Greenway corridors				
Downhill skiing/snowboard areas				
Cross-country ski or snowshoe areas				
Nature/environmental center				
Community gardens				
Town or city forests				
Boat launches				
Public beach/es				
Natural areas				
Public outdoor spaces (i.e. town common)				
Non-motorized linkages to other recreation facilities				

[➤] Are there any other planned facilities which have not been mentioned? Please note/list here:

Part V: Partnerships/Community Collaboration

The following 3 sections are designed to better understand the partnerships which are occurring to facilitate recreation and conservation efforts in your community.

<u>Section 1</u> asks you to rate the general **importance** of partnerships with various community groups/organizations.

Section 2 asks you to rate your organization's actual **level of engagement** with these various community groups.

<u>Section 3</u> asks you to rate the **benefits** to your organization from partnerships in your community.

Section 1:

Please **rate the importance** of partnerships with the following community groups or organizations to assist in conservation or outdoor recreation efforts in your community. If the group or organization does not exist in your community, check "not at all important" for the purposes of this study.

Partner Group	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Schools					
Parks & recreation department					
Individual businesses/commercial providers					
Chamber of Commerce					
Tourism/Visitor's Bureau					
Voluntary youth sport organizations					
Voluntary community groups (non-sports related)					
Police department					
Hospitals or health care providers/educators.					
Transportation or public works department					
Colleges/universities					
Landowners (for right-of-way and open-space acquisition)					
Public housing authority					
Senior citizen's council or group					
State agencies (DRED, OEP, NHFG, DES, HHS, etc.)					
Board of Selectmen or Town/City Council					
Planning Board/Planning department					
Trails groups					

> Other groups or organizations that you believe are important partners for conservation/recreation efforts in your community:

Section 2: Please estimate your organization's actual level of engagement with the following groups to assist in conservation or outdoor recreation efforts in your community. If the group or organization does not exist in your community, check "not at all engaged" for the purposes of this study.

Partner Group	Not at all Engaged	Somewhat Engaged	Engaged	Very Engaged	Extremely Engaged
Schools					
Parks and recreation department					
Individual businesses/Commercial providers					
Chamber of commerce					
Tourism/Visitor's Bureau					
Voluntary youth sports organizations					
Voluntary community groups (non-sports related)					
Police department					
Hospitals or health care providers/educators					
Transportation or public works department					
Colleges/universities					
Landowners (for right-of-way and open-space acquisition)					
Public housing authority					
Senior citizen's council or group					
State agencies (DRED, OEP, NHFG, DES, HHS, etc.)					
Board of Selectmen or Town/City Council					
Planning board/Planning department					
Trails groups					

Section 3: Organizational Benefits of Partnerships

Please rate the importance of the following benefits as they relate **specifically to your organization's partnership efforts.**

	Strongly	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly
Our partnerships help us to	Disagree		Agree/Disagree		Agree
avoid duplication of services with other					
organizations.					
contribute to solving complex problems					
in our community.					
better meet the needs of our constituents.					

avoid unnecessary competition with other organizations.					
gain access to additional recreation facilities.					
enhance our organization's prestige in the community.					
Our partnerships help us to	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
create opportunities for professional growth and development for our staff.					
help reduce or limit our organizational costs.					
enhance our staff's expertise in specialized areas.					
meet our organizational goals and mandates.					
contribute to community development efforts.					
increase access to additional funding					
create flexibility in our organizational structure (ex: outsourcing).					
increase the number of staff/volunteers that we utilize.					
increase our organization's visibility in the community.					
acquire and/or provide access to land and/or other natural areas.					
 Please discuss any additional benefits that 	at your organi	zation accru	es from your partne	rship efforts	:

> Please rate the following management priorities related to conservation efforts in your community.

Management objectives	Not a priority	Low Priority	Medium Priority	High priority
Improving facility maintenance/upkeep				
Increasing full-time staffing levels				
Addressing user conflicts at recreation facilities				
Acquiring land and/or open-space				
Increasing budget for capital improvement and/or land/resource acquisition				
Marketing recreation opportunities to residents				
Providing incentives to encourage public outdoor recreation on private lands				
Recruiting and retaining volunteers				
Addressing issues related to vandalism				

Addressing risk management/legal liability protocols or issues				
Preserving historic and cultural resources				
Protecting important natural areas				
Increasing budget for annual operating expenses				
Ensuring public access to water-based recreation resources (beaches, rivers, coast)				
Management objectives	Not a priority	Low Priority	Medium Priority	High priority
Increasing law enforcement on existing conservation and/or recreation facilities				
Developing new facilities for organized sports and athletic activities				
Improving connectivity of community through pedestrian/bicycle linkages				
Supporting local and regional planning to promote open space and trails planning efforts				
Actively seeking new funding approaches				
Incorporating conservation planning into community discussions about smart growth planning and zoning approaches.				
Addressing overuse of conservation/recreation areas.				
Addressing resource degradation or environmental concerns at land-based recreation facilities (trail erosion, etc.)				
Addressing resource degradation or environmental concerns at water-based recreation facilities (water quality at beaches, etc.)				
Increasing part-time staffing levels				

> Please indicate your organization's **top 3 management challenges**:

Part VII: Demographic Information

>	Please indicate your levels of education and major/s:
	☐ High school or equivalent
	☐ Associate's Degree
	☐ Bachelor's Degree
	☐ Master's Degree

	☐ Other Degree:
>	Your sex/gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male
	Your age: ☐ 25 or younger ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55 ☐ 56 over
>	How long have you been involved in with conservation efforts in your community?year(s)
>	What is your current position title?
>	How long have you served in your current position?year/s

Part VIII: Open Comments

Please feel free to add any additional comments related to public conservation needs in the state of New Hampshire. Feel free to attach a separate page if necessary. All feedback is appreciated!

Thank you for your time, interest, and participation.

If you would like to receive a copy of the final report, including results of this survey, please fill in the form included in this mailing and return with your survey.